



Living with Fire

If you live near a forested area, you are more likely to see smoke and fire. Whether it is a good fire (prescribed burning) or a bad fire (wildfire), it is a natural part of Virginia's ecology.



Prescribed fire is a low intensity controlled burn conducted by trained professionals. Under the right conditions, prescribed fire mimics the role nature played in Virginia's ecosystems when lightning fires once burned freely across the state.

Prescribed fire:

- 🔥 Removes accumulated fuels which reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.
- 🔥 Encourages regrowth of native plants.
- 🔥 Enhances wildlife habitat for such species as the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise and black bears.



Many plants and animals need fire to survive.



CAUTION: Where there is fire, there is smoke.

- 🔥 Slow down when driving, but do not slam on your brakes.
- 🔥 Turn your low-beam headlights on and leave extra space between vehicles.
- 🔥 If you must stop, pull over as far as you can on the shoulder and turn on your flashers.